

vidence has prepared for our worldly inheritance, to make common cause in a wise, liberal and fostering care of a moral interest whose development is so full of glorious promise for the future !

We have now reached a momentous era in the career of our State, and every act of the present Legislature, and every actor in it, will occupy a prominent place in future history. The work of every day is for all time—and every movement now being so pregnant with results for good or evil, the official proceedings of the day will be critically scanned by all future historians, and with their character decided by the just arbitrament of time, and stamped upon them, will be fixed before the gaze of coming generations.

I cannot but feel assured that my patriotic countrymen, now clothed with the infinitely responsible trust of legislators, are sensible of the magnitude of the interest depending on their action; and that it is not necessary to plead with men who love their State, and who know its wants, in behalf of the great interests which I represent. Nevertheless, as the official organ of that interest, it is my duty to give voice to its claims ; and, therefore, before entering upon the details of the special action now desired of the General Assembly, I would respectfully submit to its careful attention the following general considerations.

*First.* The educational system of North-Carolina is now attracting the favorable attention of the States South, West, and North of us, is rapidly elevating the character of the State at home and abroad, and is worthy of the pride and fostering care of all classes of her patriotic citizens.

All modern statistical publications give us a rank far in advance of the position which we occupied in such works a few years ago ; and without referring to numerous other facts equally significant, our moral influence may be illustrated by the fact that the Superintendent of Common Schools was pressingly invited to visit, free of expense, the Legislature